

KABC Statement Request – Pacific Palisades Rebuilding

LADWP is committed to supporting Pacific Palisades residents as the community rebuilds and prepares for future electrical system upgrades. Requirements for underground conduit and trench installation are based on LADWP's established engineering standards, which ensure alignment between private property installations and the City's street infrastructure. The trench depth requirement was updated once to match conduit encasement standards for street installations, ensuring consistent and safe connections between public and private property.

Customers who are rebuilding are required to install future underground conduit to their front property line. This work is necessary to support the proposed 12kV conversion planned for Pacific Palisades neighborhoods, which will transition overhead systems to underground service.

We remain actively engaged with customers, including those whose projects require corrections before final inspection and service activation. LADWP meets monthly with the Palisades Infrastructure Working Group to stay engaged and listen and respond to community concerns, while working together to find short- and long-term solutions. Through this partnership, LADWP has been able to adjust and modify long-established business practices that will speed up rebuilding. In partnership with the Mayor's Office, Council District 11, and the local community, LADWP launched the Palisades Inspections and Permitting Support Center (PIPSC) in February to provide in-person assistance, improving communications and streamlining rebuilding efforts. In addition, LADWP expanded staffing, updated our customer-facing portal to better help residents track electric service requests and launched a convenient online payment portal. LADWP is also developing clearer contractor guidance tools, including factsheets and workflow charts, while continuing to coordinate closely with our partner agencies.

As rebuilding advances, LADWP continues to provide direct support for customer projects that require additional steps before reaching final inspection and service activation. In many cases, undergrounding projects involve standard installation requirements, such as engineering review for longer conduit runs and verification that materials and conduit placement meet current standards. LADWP continues to work directly with customers, including the projects you specifically mentioned, by providing guidance, inspections, and technical support throughout each phase of the process. Once customer-installed elements are confirmed to meet the LADWP specifications, the project can proceed through the established inspection and approval process toward service activation.

In one example, LADWP advised the customer several times that the project required an engineering review because the planned conduit run exceeded the standard 120-foot limit that triggers an engineering review. Most recently, LADWP provided updated guidance in May 2026. The project drawings are being prepared and will be reviewed by LADWP's engineering team as part of

the established process for conduit installations of this length. LADWP will proceed once the required documents are submitted and approved.

LADWP has maintained consistent communication with the second customer since late 2025, providing direction on meter placement, underground requirements, and conduit specifications. The underground depth standard was updated from 38 inches to 41 inches, and LADWP provided guidance to align the project with current construction requirements. Several issues with the customer-installed conduit were identified and required correction, including incorrect glue, insufficient conduit depth, an overhead rise that was too short, conduit not reaching the property line, and use of a non-GRC riser. As of August 2026, LADWP continues to work closely with the customer to ensure compliance with current standards.

LADWP has also maintained ongoing communication with the third customer and their contractor throughout the project, providing guidance on requesting temporary service, installing required equipment, and preparing the site for inspection. The customer ultimately chose not to proceed with temporary service and requested a refund. They have since moved ahead with requesting permanent service. To receive permanent power, customers must obtain power releases from both LADBS and LADWP, which can occur concurrently.

LADWP does have plans to address the condition and long-term capability of the existing underground systems in Pacific Palisades. As part of the broader Palisades Rebuild effort, LADWP is modernizing and upgrading the distribution system from the older 4.8kV voltage to a new 12kV configuration, where feasible. This will significantly increase capacity and support future electrification needs such as electric vehicle charging, heat pumps, and fully electric homes. LADWP also intends to replace aging infrastructure, upgrade Distribution Station 29, and install new 12kV underground circuits throughout the community. In general, LADWP replaces underground cables based on asset condition, age, and load requirements, ensuring that upgraded infrastructure can safely and reliably support forecasted energy demands.

For more information on Palisades undergrounding efforts, attached here is a presentation from the [March PPCC meeting](#) and a link to the Department's [Palisades undergrounding initiative](#).

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